

April 6, 2017

Environmental Protection Agency

FOIA REQUEST
Fee waiver requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, we request all Environmental Protection Agency Congressional Correspondence Logs between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2016. To be clear, we are not requesting the correspondence texts. We are requesting all fields of information recorded in logs or log databases about each congressional correspondence such as the Correspondent Name, Correspondent Type or Organization, Addressee, Subject, Date Received, Date of Reply, Document Type, Processing Codes and Instructions, Reference or Control Numbers, Action, and Office to which the correspondence may have been assigned.

Further to our request to waive fees associated with this request, we note that these documents are necessary for research investigating how the Environmental Protection Agency balances the requests of diverse stakeholders in fulfilling its statutory mission. The documents will be used for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for a commercial use. Disclosure of the requested information to us is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in our commercial interest. In the alternative to our request for a fee waiver and for purposes of determining the applicability of fees and exemptions, you should know that we are professors at Stanford University and University of Wisconsin-Madison, major research institutions, and these documents will be used for scientific publications that advance the scholarly research goals of our institutions and to contribute to public understanding of the operations of the government. If you estimate that the fees for this request will exceed \$25.00, please inform us first and await our authorization.

We believe this disclosure warrants expedited processing. As scholars, we are primarily interested in disseminating information. Timely publication of this research will inform current public discussions about the operations of the government.

We request that information be provided to us in original digital formats, via email or on a CD or DVD, preserving any metadata where possible. We prefer documents in the following formats:

- Digital database or document information maintained in formats including .mdb, .mdf, .sql, .xml, .json, or Microsoft Office file formats: in the original, machine-readable format
- Documents that only exist in paper form: in scanned .pdf format

If our request is denied in whole or part, we ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. We will also expect you to release all severable portions of otherwise exempt material. We reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As this information is of timely value, we would appreciate any and all communications regarding the request be sent to us by email at **CorrespondenceResearch@gmail.com** rather than by mail, or by phone at (608)-352-9144 if you have questions regarding this request.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Powell
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University of Wisconsin-Madison

Justin Grimmer
Associate Professor
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Stanford University